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## COMMITTEES OF THE ASSOCIATION

With a view to indicating the anticipated character and scope of the work of the different committees the following explanatory comments have been prepared by the President. It is hoped that members of the Association may be disposed to transmit information and suggestions to the several chairmen. For convenience of reference each committee is designated by a capital letter.

### COMMITTEE A

#### **Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure**

*Chairman, A. A. Young, Cornell University*

This notable committee was appointed in January, 1915, to take up and complete the work of a joint committee of the American Economic Association, the Political Science Association, and the American Sociological Society. It consists of fifteen members; but from time to time its sub-committees, for inquiry into specific cases of violation of academic freedom, are composed by selecting other persons *ad hoc*.

A special report on the case investigated in Utah has been published and others are in preparation on those in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Montana.

The General Report of the Committee on the principles of academic freedom, with some practical proposals, was published in December, 1915, as Vol. I, Part 1, of this Bulletin. These practical proposals cover the procedure recommended for dismissals and refusals of reappointment. The formulation of practical proposals for the grounds of dismissal remains to be made.

### COMMITTEE B

#### **Methods of Appointment and Promotion**

*Chairman, J. M. Coulter, University of Chicago*

This committee was authorized at the annual meeting of January, 1915, but its members were not appointed until late

in 1915, and its work has just begun. Its field is distinct from that of Committee A (Academic Freedom and Academic Tenure), in that it seeks to devise a normal system, adaptable to different classes of institutions, for the selection and promotion of members of the academic staff. In its relations to other committees, the remarks made below as to Committee C apply here also.

#### COMMITTEE C

##### **Methods of Recruiting the Profession (by Scholarships and Fellowships, etc.)**

*Chairman, G. E. Barnett, Johns Hopkins University*

This committee was authorized in 1915, but its work has just begun. The subject is one in which comparison of experience by different universities and harmony of understanding as to methods is emphatically important to the establishment of sound practice. In contributing to the general problem of graduate studies, the topic of this committee borders in some aspects upon those of Committee B (Methods of Appointment, etc.), Committee H (Migration, etc.), and Committee O (Requirements for the Ph. D. Degree); and any final solution must take into account the results of all four committees; but each topic is large enough to occupy a single committee, and the widest range of experience must be sought before any satisfactory solution can be expected.

#### COMMITTEE D

##### **Limits of Standardization of Institutions, etc.**

*Chairman, T. F. Holgate, Northwestern University*

This committee was appointed in 1915, at the instance of Professor Royce, of Harvard University, in his address at the annual meeting, on "The Case of Middlebury College and the Carnegie Foundation." The chairman for 1915, Professor Giddings, of Columbia University, was obliged to resign on account of ill-health, and the deliberations of the committee are virtually beginning during the present year. The pro-

posed classification of colleges and universities by the U. S. Bureau of Education has an important relation to the inquiries of this committee.

#### COMMITTEE E

##### Qualifications for Membership

*Chairman, F. C. Woodward, Stanford University*

This committee was authorized at the annual meeting in January, 1915. Its task is, not to pass upon the qualifications of individual applicants for membership, but to apply, by general rules, the interpretation of the constitutional clause to certain typical cases. Among the matters awaiting its consideration are these:

(1) How the constitutional clause shall be interpreted as to whether a given institution is a "university or college, or professional school of similar grade."

(2) Whether the constitutional clause applies to service in library or laboratory departments where no teaching has been done.

(3) Whether the constitutional clause applies to service by scientific research in institutions independent of a university or college, such as an astronomical observatory or a government bureau.

(4) Whether the constitutional clause applies to service of purely technical instruction, such as instrumental music in a music school or manual training in an engineering school.

(5) Whether the constitutional clause applies to service in one or more courses of university teaching, where the teacher also pursues an independent profession in an outside office, as in the case of many lecturers on law, medicine, dentistry, architecture, commerce, etc.

(6) Whether the constitutional clause applies to persons who at the time of application have become devoted wholly to a university career, but whose prior service, in part of the ten years, was of the nature of those enumerated in paragraphs (2) to (5).

(7) Whether the constitutional clause requiring "recognized scholarship or scientific productivity" is to be interpreted as satisfied by the indorsement of worthiness implied in the recommendation of three colleagues, or as requiring specific proof of the applicant's attainments and a selective scrutiny

thereof with a view to making the membership of the Association a fairly exclusive one.\*

It may further seem appropriate to consider recommending amendments of the Constitution, for example:

(8) Whether the Constitution, which now permits election of new members at the annual meeting only, shall be amended so as to permit election during the year by the Council, after publication of nominations in the *BULLETIN*; the present system of election only at the annual meeting cripples the growth of the Association and is not customary in similar organizations.

(9) Whether the Constitution shall be amended to provide for a junior membership, for those who have had less than ten years of university service; so that the younger members of the profession may be given an early interest in the work of the Association and a stake in its welfare, the present ten-year qualification being far higher than is customary in similar organizations.

#### COMMITTEE F

##### Formation of Local Chapters or Groups

*Chairman, J. R. Commons, University of Wisconsin*

This committee will be expected to present a report at the next annual meeting defining a policy for local chapters or groups in the light of this year's actual experience, the Executive Committee preferring not to proceed upon speculation.

The local groups will be invited to meet and work as chapters this year. Their varied experiences, duly communicated to Committee F, will enable it to frame a plan that will be adaptable to all conditions. For this purpose a letter, printed elsewhere in this *BULLETIN*, has been sent to a member in each institution, asking him to call a meeting and to organize provisionally. These provisional chapters will find plenty of material for discussion in the topics allotted to the national committees; and the opinions elicited in these local meetings,

\*The President cannot resist offering his humble opinion that the phrase "scientific productivity" smacks unfortunately of the quantitative factory-output standards, and that if it were to be construed as testing eligibility for this Association of liberal scholars by the amount of published papers or books, then the sooner it is amended out of the Constitution, the better for the Association.

when communicated to the respective chairmen, will be of great value for the committee deliberations. Thus the way will be prepared for the final settlement of the Association's views at the annual meeting. It must not be forgotten that the formulation of professional opinion is a slow process, needing ample comparison of views in all quarters and throughout the year. Local meetings already held at Madison and at Boston show that this method is a sound one and will meet with general acceptance. But it must be remembered that these Chapters have as yet no constitutional status or authority whatever, and can have none before the next annual meeting. It will be appreciated that local chapters will meet for formal or informal private discussion without publication.

#### COMMITTEE G

##### **Causes and Remedies for the Alleged Decline in the Intellectual Interests of College Students**

*Chairman, E. B. Greene, University of Illinois*

This subject has of late received widespread discussion, by professors and others, in the public prints. It is a timely subject, and our Association is the proper body to take it up. One member of the Council expresses the opinion that it is the most important subject before the Association. Its solution can rest only on the widest comparison of views; but that solution, whenever reached, will be of beneficent significance and may well mark a new epoch in university education in this country.

#### COMMITTEE H

##### **Desirability and Practicability of Increased Migration and Interchange of Graduate Students**

*Chairman, A. O. Leuschner, University of California*

This subject, with the rise of state universities, the extension of graduate studies, and the increase of mobility in student life, has acquired a large importance as a problem. It can be solved only by mutual concessions and harmonious

understanding on the part of the various institutions; thus it falls particularly to this Association as a part of its task. In its relation to the topics of certain other committees, the remarks above offered, under Committee C, apply here also.

This topic was proposed in the original call for the formation of the Association.

#### COMMITTEE I

##### University Ethics

*Chairman, John Dewey, Columbia University*

This committee may look forward to doing for the profession of university teachers what the committees on professional ethics have done for the medical profession and the legal profession. Within every profession there arise typical problems of conduct, for which neither law nor ordinary morality provides either guide or control. The best opinion should be formulated as a guide and standard,—a standard to strengthen the conscience of the weak and a guide to inform the youthful. Of course, the subject of academic freedom is here a part of the field; but the restraints which a governing board should put upon itself raise a distinct question from that of the restraints which professors should put upon themselves regardless of the interference of boards. Moreover, there is a large field of morality and propriety in the relations between professors themselves, between professors and students, and between students. A useful suggestion of the concrete nature of these questions will be found in Professor H. C. Warren's article in the *Atlantic Monthly* for November, 1914.

#### COMMITTEE J

##### Distinctions between the Several Honorary Degrees and the Basis for Conferring them

*Chairman, R. M. Wenley, University of Michigan*

This topic also was proposed in the original call for the formation of the Association. The widest variety of practice exists, and an almost equal variety of criticism is heard.

The subject is capable of being governed by a common understanding, and this Association is decidedly the body to formulate such an understanding. For the credit of university prestige, and for the enlightenment of the public at large, it is to be expected that the work of this committee can accomplish something to define and stabilize the significance of these awards.

#### COMMITTEE K

##### **Feasibility and Method of Utilizing the Government Scientific Bureaus at Washington and elsewhere — in Co-operation, etc.**

*Chairman, E. D. Durand, University of Minnesota*

Much has been said recently about the facilities available at Washington. Some universities have doubtless definite practices or plans as to utilizing them for graduate work. The rest of the institutions know little about the problem, but they need to know. This Association should find out what the facts are, and should place on record some conclusions for general information. This involves incidentally the consideration of the much-mooted plan for a federal university at Washington. It would seem that such a plan should not receive final decision until this Association has expressed its mature views upon the subject.

#### COMMITTEE L

##### **Co-operation with Latin-American Universities to Promote Exchange Professorships and Fellowships, etc.**

*Chairman, L. S. Rowe, University of Pennsylvania*

Our universities must not lag behind in doing their share to promote the healthy movement for fraternization with Latin-America. A few universities have already done something. But the others need to know what has been done, and to be invited to do their share, if any. There is room for a good deal of co-operation; and the right men are probably scattered about in various institutions. Moreover, the needs



and demands of Latin-American students coming to the United States should be inquired into, and perhaps also of our students going to Latin-America. Perhaps the report should include some information for us in this country of the ideals and methods of the Latin-American universities. In short, there are a number of possibilities which may amount to something or to nothing, but should be inquired into by a representative body.

#### COMMITTEE M

#### Recommendations of the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress

*Chairman, J. D. M. Ford, Harvard University*

This body, meeting in Washington December 27, 1915 to January 8, 1916, adopted a number of recommendations which affect our university field. A translation of them is given below. This Association is in duty bound to consider them, and to work out any general plans which ought to ensue from them. The foregoing subject (Committee L) is also in principle a part of this same general duty of ours to promote fraternal co-operation with Latin-America, but stands by itself as obviously requiring a separate committee. We can hardly avoid giving official consideration to these recommendations of the Congress.

Resolutions of the Second Pan-American Scientific Congress (from the *Boletín de la Unión Pan-Americana*, January, 1916, page 12):

XV. That the curriculum of study in schools of the American Republics include instruction on the life and achievements of the *Founders and Statesmen of all States of the Continent*.

XVI. That the United States Universities provide *Chairs of the growth and ideals of the Latin-American nations*, and that similar chairs be established in Latin-America on the history of the United States.

XVII. That the teaching of the *Spanish Language* be made general in the schools of the United States, and of the English Language in Latin-American schools, and that both be taught

from the point of view of American customs, history, literature, and social institutions.

XVIII. That the study of *Sociology* be introduced in all American universities.

XIX. That an *interchange* of teachers and of students in normal and technical schools be encouraged.

XXII. That a *Department of Education* be established in the Pan-American Union, for the publication in English, Spanish, and Portuguese of pedagogical writings important to American countries . . . (and for the interchange of ideas upon Education).

XXIII. . . . (That courses in *International Law* be established in every university; ten elaborate paragraphs).

XXV. That the study of the Constitutions of all American Republics be given a specific place in all institutions of learning.

#### COMMITTEE N

##### **Handbook of American Universities and Colleges**

*Chairman, J. Mc. K. Cattell, Columbia University*

This country greatly needs such a handbook. A small part of the data can be found in the annual report of the U. S. Commissioner of Education, in the American Year-Book, and elsewhere. But what is needed is a special publication, annually revised, on the general plan of the German "*Minerva*."

The reasons why the "*Minerva*" does not suffice are: (1) It is in German, and as a matter of self-respect, we ought to have one of our own in English, for the United States alone. (2) The present convulsion in Europe will result in numerous gaps in "*Minerva*," if, indeed, it is not abandoned; for five or ten years to come, it can hardly be complete and will decline in vogue; and it has never been up to date for the U. S. (3) More important, "*Minerva's*" general plan does not admit several classes of data which we ourselves constantly need to know for American institutions; *e. g.*, the courses given, and not merely the names of the professors. (4) Most important, the large and increasing number of foreign students, from Japan, China, South America, and

elsewhere, find us without any reference book containing the information and the general survey which they need.

The handbook should presumably be, like "Minerva," a mere rehearsal of the principal classes of facts, obtainable of record; and would become a reference volume in every library, high school, and editorial office in the country.

#### COMMITTEE O

##### **Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree**

*Chairman, J. R. Angell, University of Chicago*

This knotty subject is an ever-present problem, in one or another aspect, in all institutions; and it would be a reproach to our Association if we did not attempt to reach some results representing a common understanding. In its relations to the work of certain other committees, the remarks above made, under Committee C, apply to this subject also. But this subject has its own special considerations, and the committee has an ample task before it.

#### COMMITTEE P

##### **Systems of Pensions and Insurance for University Teachers**

The proposed system of pensions and insurance, recently circulated in a report of the President of the Carnegie Foundation, must naturally arouse the greatest interest among college and university teachers. Having ascertained that the views of this Association would receive consideration, the Executive Committee has appointed a committee to report upon the subject.\* It is obvious that a committee report, based on exchange and comparison of views, will have a special value independent of the numerous individual views which have been solicited and received from instructors by the authors of the proposal.

\* We have been assured that no action will be taken by the Carnegie Foundation until November next.